

Voluntary - Public

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Revision of the Standards for Use of Food Additive (Sodium Chlorite)

Report Categories:

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

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Report Highlights:

On June 26, 2009, the Japanese Government proposed the revision of the standard for use of food additive, sodium chlorite. The comment period will close on July 10, 2009. MHLW will also notify these proposed changes to the WTO/SPS committee, which will provide another chance for public comments to be submitted on this subject.

General Information:

On June 26, 2009, the Japanese Government proposed the revision of the standard for use of food additive, sodium chlorite. The comment period will close on July 10, 2009. MHLW will also notify these proposed changes to the WTO/SPS committee, which will provide another chance for public comments to be submitted on this subject. If you have comments it is best to send directly to MHLW as soon as possible, however MHLW will also notify these proposed changes to the WTO/SPS committee, which will provide another chance for public comments to be submitted on

this subject. Then after the closing of a the comment period in the WTO, a final report will be made based on the conclusions of a session of the Pharmaceutical Affairs and Food Sanitation Council slated to be held at a later date, and this will constitute the final decision.

The comments can be either Japanese or English.

If you have comments, please send them directly to the Japanese Government at:

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Pharmaceutical and Food Safety Bureau,
Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare
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Food Additive Regulations: Revision of the Standards for Use of Food Additive

Purpose and background

The Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare is going to partially revise the standards for use of Sodium Chlorite.

Under Article 10 of the Food Sanitation Law, food additives can be used or marketed only when they are designated by the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare. When use standards or compositional specifications are established for food additives based on Article 11 of the law, those additives are not permitted to be used or marketed unless they meet these standards or specifications.

Sodium Chlorite was designated as a food additive in 1963. This additive is usually used as a sterilizer or bleaching agent. The use standards were revised once in 2005.

This time an application was filed with the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare, asking for the partial revision of the use standards for Sodium Chlorite. The Minister asked the Pharmaceutical Affairs and Food Sanitation Council to discuss the adequacy of the revision of the standards. In response to the request from the Minister, the Subcommittee on Food Additives of the Food

Sanitation Committee conducted discussions and concluded as follows.

Outline of conclusion

The Minister should partially revise the standards for use of Sodium Chlorite based on Article 11 of the Food Sanitation Law (see Attachments 2-1).